

REMARKS

Claims 27, 37 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okochi (EP 1262534). The Examiner stated that the adhesive strength limitation in the claims was not given any patentable weight because it is not a positive limitation. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The adhesive strength of the cured adhesive is a positive limitation of an important property of the adhesive product. Also, the British Standard included in the claims is a standard test for the adhesive strength of a cured adhesive bonding together wood materials. Surely the adhesive strength property should be given patentable weight as a positive limitation.

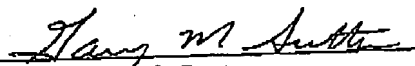
The claims state that that the adhesive when cured has an adhesive strength of at least about 8 Mpa. In contrast, the Okochi adhesive must have a relatively low adhesive strength so that the adhesive sheet can be removed after it is applied. Okochi discloses a removable pressure sensitive adhesive that has a gel fraction of at least 70% when cured. The adhesive must remain gelled after curing so that the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet of the invention can be removed from the surface to which it is applied. For example, the adhesive sheet can be in the form of removable masking tape or a removable sticky note. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are novel and nonobvious over Okochi.

Claims 27, 28, 37 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hennen (US 6,982,107). Claims 28 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Hennen in view of Dickmann (US 4,325,855). Claims 29 and 32-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Hennen in view of Dickmann and Rolf (US 6,096,333). Claims 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Hennen in view of Dickmann, Rolf and Goodson (US 6,783,799).

However, the cited patents neither teach nor suggest an adhesive product that when cured and adhering wood pieces together has an adhesive strength of at least about 8 Mpa as measured according to the British Standard test for the adhesive strength of a cured adhesive bonding together wood materials. For example, Hennen discusses adhering to plastics, not to wood pieces, and particularly not adhering two

wood pieces together. Although painting is mentioned in Hennen, it is in relation to painting a plastic auto part, not a wood piece. In particular, the cited patents do not suggest an adhesive product comprising a backing strip of release material and a gelled adhesive on the backing strip to adhere two wood pieces together. There is no suggestion that such a product could be made suitable for use as a wood adhesive for adhering wood pieces together. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are novel and nonobvious over the cited patents.

Respectfully submitted,


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